



November 19, 2023

Subject: Important Update Regarding Union Activity at the Voice Arts Awards Gala

Dear Everyone,

I trust this message finds you well, and excited about the upcoming 10th Anniversary Voice Arts Awards Gala, which promises to be a memorable and historic occasion. I write regarding an issue impacting the Voice Arts Awards venue, the Beverly Hilton Hotel. This information does not apply to the That's Voiceover Career Expo.

Some of you may receive communications from "United Here Local 11," a union representing hospitality workers in Los Angeles and Orange counties. They have been on strike with several hotels since July, including the Beverly Hilton. While there is optimism that the strike may conclude before the Voice Arts Awards, uncertainties remain.

Many in the SOVAS community may express empathy towards unions and their members, including those represented by Local 11. It is, however, essential to note that the union and company representatives reaching out to you are not necessarily concerned with the timing of SOVAS's contract or the adverse impact on our constituents. We would hope they understand our predicament, just as surely we understand the actions and goals of striking unions and their members. Notwithstanding, SOVAS contracted with the Beverly Hilton long before this strike was initiated, and cannot cancel the event without incurring significant cost. Moreover, SOVAS cannot change venues without dramatically impacting its finances and ability to fulfill its 501c3 charitable mission of providing valuable services and programs to its constituents. Canceling the event outright would severely negatively impact SOVAS and disappoint attendees traveling from around the world.

SOVAS is working with Beverly Hilton management to ensure a seamless and successful event. During my personal visits to the hotel, there was no visible strike activity, and management assured that demonstrations are confined to limited areas outside the hotel with strict security protocols to minimize disruption. We take comfort in seeing other awards shows, such as the Griot Awards successfully navigate similar situations in recent weeks.

SOVAS remains committed to moving forward with the Voice Arts Awards Gala, acknowledging and respecting the rights of unions to strike and express their grievances as permitted by law in our free country.

Onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rudy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rudy  
Chairman and CEO  
SOVAS